

REFERENCE TITLE: licensure; citizenship status; documentation

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

HB 2796

Introduced by
Representatives Bravo: Hernandez A, Hernandez C

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 32-721, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; REPEALING SECTION 41-1080, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 41, CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE 7.2, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 41-1080; RELATING TO LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:
2 Section 1. Section 32-721, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:
4 32-721. Certified public accountants; qualifications
5 A. The board shall issue a certificate of certified public
6 accountant to any individual who complies with all of the following:
7 ~~1. Meets the requirements of section 41-1080.~~
8 ~~2.~~ 1. Is at least eighteen years of age.
9 ~~3.~~ 2. Has not engaged in any conduct that would constitute grounds
10 for revocation or suspension of a certificate or other disciplinary action
11 pursuant to section 32-741.
12 ~~4.~~ 3. Meets the requirements of subsection B, C or D of this
13 section.
14 B. If the applicant passes the uniform certified public accountant
15 examination and has never been certified, registered or licensed as a
16 certified public accountant in this state or another jurisdiction, the
17 applicant must comply with both of the following:
18 1. Have had at least two thousand hours of paid or unpaid
19 experience, either before or after passing all sections of the uniform
20 certified public accountant examination, that has exposed the applicant to
21 and provided the applicant with experience in the practice of accounting.
22 The applicant's experience must be sufficient to demonstrate the
23 applicant's ability for critical inquiry and analysis of financial
24 accounting information, including balance sheets, income statements, cash
25 flow statements or tax returns and the applicant's ability to communicate,
26 either orally or in writing, on the results of an inquiry or analysis of
27 that information to an employer, client or third party.
28 2. Present satisfactory evidence that the person has successfully
29 obtained a baccalaureate degree or higher degree from an accredited
30 institution or a college or university that maintains standards comparable
31 to those of an accredited institution and that the applicant has completed
32 at least one hundred fifty semester hours of education of which:
33 (a) At least thirty-six semester hours are nonduplicative
34 accounting courses of which at least thirty semester hours are upper-level
35 courses.
36 (b) At least thirty semester hours are related courses.
37 C. If the applicant passes the uniform certified public accountant
38 examination or the international qualification examination and has a
39 certificate, registration or license to practice as a certified public
40 accountant in another jurisdiction and the applicant has never had a
41 certificate issued by the board expire or be relinquished or revoked, at
42 least one of the following shall apply:
43 1. The certificate, registration or license is issued by a
44 jurisdiction whose requirements are determined by the board to be

1 substantially equivalent to the requirements prescribed in subsection B of
2 this section.

3 2. The applicant has a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent or a
4 higher degree from an accredited institution or a college or university
5 that maintains standards comparable to those of an accredited institution
6 and either of the following applies:

7 (a) The applicant has been employed as a certified public
8 accountant in the practice of accounting for at least three years and has
9 completed at least one hundred fifty semester hours of education that
10 includes both of the following:

11 (i) At least twenty-four semester hours of nonduplicative
12 accounting courses, of which twelve semester hours are upper-level
13 courses.

14 (ii) At least eighteen semester hours in related courses.

15 (b) The applicant has been employed as a certified public
16 accountant in the practice of accounting for at least five of the ten
17 preceding years and has completed both of the following:

18 (i) At least twenty-four semester hours of nonduplicative
19 accounting courses, of which twelve semester hours are upper-level
20 courses.

21 (ii) At least eighteen semester hours in related courses.

22 3. The applicant has been employed as a certified public accountant
23 in the practice of accounting for at least ten of the fifteen preceding
24 years.

25 D. If an applicant passes the international uniform certified
26 public accountant qualification examination of the American institute of
27 certified public accountants, all of the following apply:

28 1. The applicant's country has a mutual recognition agreement with
29 the national association of state boards of accountancy that has been
30 adopted by the board.

31 2. The board recognizes that the applicant's qualifications are
32 substantially equivalent to the qualifications of certified public
33 accountants in the United States in the areas of education, examination
34 and experience.

35 Sec. 2. Repeal

36 Section 41-1080, Arizona Revised Statutes, is repealed.

37 Sec. 3. Title 41, chapter 6, article 7.2, Arizona Revised Statutes,
38 is amended by adding a new section 41-1080, to read:

39 41-1080. Licensure; documentation; tax identification number;
40 definitions

41 A. AN AGENCY OR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THIS STATE MAY NOT
42 REQUIRE AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS APPLYING FOR A LICENSE TO PROVIDE
43 DOCUMENTATION OF CITIZENSHIP OR ALIEN STATUS.

44 B. IF AN AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THIS STATE REQUIRES AN
45 INDIVIDUAL'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER FOR THE PURPOSES OF APPLYING FOR A

1 LICENSE, THE AGENCY SHALL ACCEPT AN INDIVIDUAL'S FEDERAL TAX
2 IDENTIFICATION NUMBER IN LIEU OF A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER.

3 C. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

4 1. "AGENCY" MEANS ANY AGENCY, DEPARTMENT, BOARD OR COMMISSION OF
5 THIS STATE OR ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THIS STATE THAT ISSUES A
6 LICENSE FOR THE PURPOSES OF OPERATING A BUSINESS IN THIS STATE OR TO AN
7 INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES A SERVICE TO ANY PERSON.

8 2. "LICENSE" MEANS ANY AGENCY PERMIT, CERTIFICATE, APPROVAL,
9 REGISTRATION, CHARTER OR SIMILAR FORM OF AUTHORIZATION THAT IS REQUIRED BY
10 LAW AND THAT IS ISSUED BY ANY AGENCY FOR THE PURPOSES OF OPERATING A
11 BUSINESS IN THIS STATE OR TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES A SERVICE TO ANY
12 PERSON WHERE THE LICENSE IS NECESSARY IN PERFORMING THAT SERVICE.